DIADIN 416-75
20 FEBRUARY 1975

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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE

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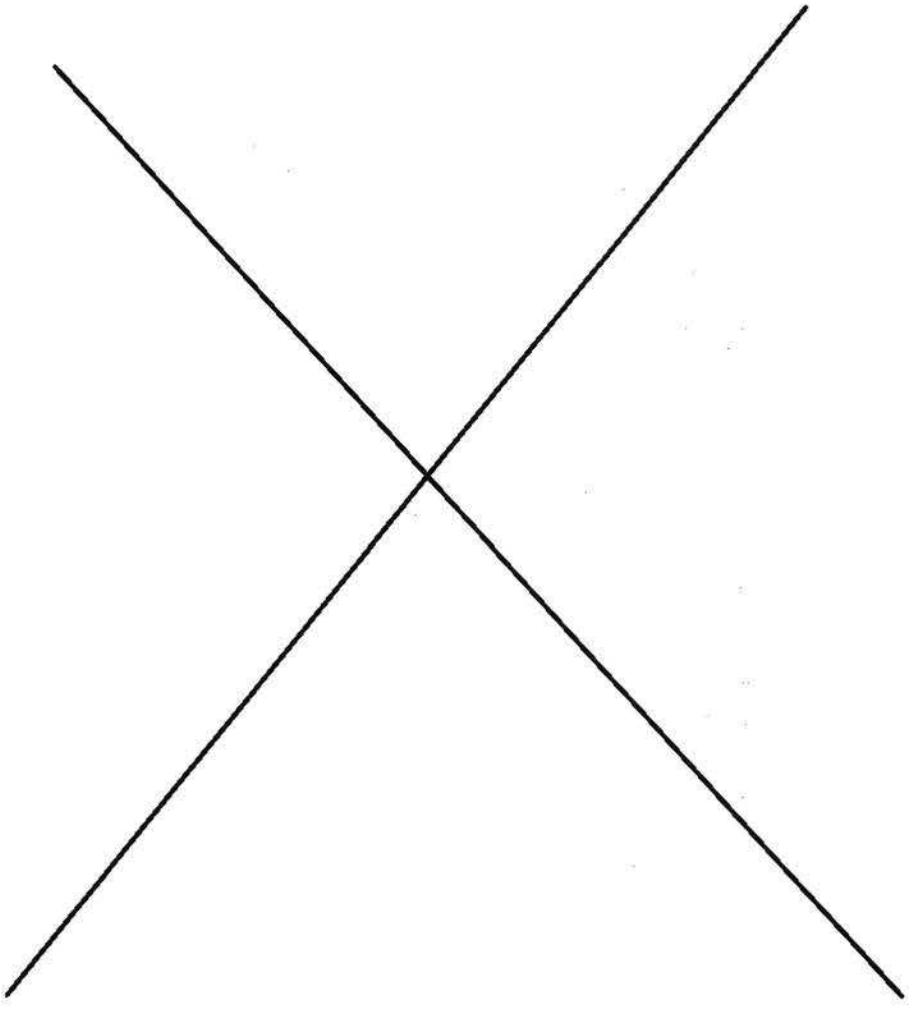

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This Notice is designed to provide intelligence in support of future decisions with respect to security policy or posture.

ARGENTINA

COUNTERGUERRILLA OPERATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL.

~~(C/NFD)~~ The army's operation against People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) guerrillas in Tucuman Province is faltering, evidently because army commander Lt Gen Anaya is not heeding the advice of his counter-insurgency experts. Instead of employing small-unit, commando-type tactics, the army is conducting a 5,000-man sweep operation in the southwestern part of the province. Anaya does not want to alienate the people and has instructed his officers to make apologies in advance for any "inconveniences" they might suffer -- thus signaling the army's target areas to the guerrillas. Only a small number of casualties have been reported thus far on both sides.

~~(C/NFD)~~ ERP units in the province are well suited for irregular operations, have an established logistics base, and enjoy considerable support among the rural population. They could conceivably inflict heavy casualties on isolated regular army units.

~~(C/NFD)~~ The army has a reservoir of officers and noncommissioned officers who are highly trained in commando-type tactics, and many of them have been assigned as advisers to regular units in the operation. Nevertheless, they apparently are not being utilized to their full potential.

(Continued)

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~~(C/NFD)~~ Lt Gen Anaya has been criticized before by other officers for his failure to demand a full-scale army counterterrorist role. They are now scoring him for acquiescing to political pressure for a highly publicized show of force. Increased prodding from these elements can be expected in an effort to force Anaya to switch from sweep operations to commando-type tactics. If they are successful, the army has a good chance of containing the guerrillas in the province. Otherwise, the government will most likely suffer a serious set-back in its heavily publicized Tucuman operation -- something it can ill afford with urban terrorism on the upswing. ~~(GDS 31 Dec 81)~~

SOURCE: [redacted] 19 Feb 75 ~~(C/NFD)~~

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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